

NIFA in the News – Week of March 12, 2012

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In the News

OSU dean joins Obama administration (Corvallis Gazette-Times 3/10). Sonny Ramaswamy, who since 2009 has been the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Oregon State University, has been named by President Obama to lead the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in Washington, D.C. [Link](#)

US President Barack Obama names US Indians to key posts (Economic Times 3/11). US President Barack Obama has announced the appointment of two eminent Indian Americans - Paula Gangopadhyay and Sonny Ramaswamy - to key posts in the administration. While Gangopadhyay has been nominated Member of the prestigious National Museum and Library Services Board, Ramaswamy has been appointed Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in US Department of Agriculture, the White House said. [Link](#)

Bangalore-educated man to join Barack Obama administration (One India 3/11). American President Barack Obama has named Bangalore-educated Dr Sonny Ramaswamy as the Director of National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), one of the premier institution of agricultural sciences in United States. [Link](#)

New National Institute of Food and Agriculture Director Announced (Farm Futures 3/12). President Obama announced Friday his intent to appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as Director of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Ramaswamy to director of NIFA (Meat and Poultry 3/12). Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy is President Obama's pick for director of the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Presidential appointment for OSU scientist (Daily Astorian 3/12). Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences Dean Sonny Ramaswamy has been appointed director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture by President Barack Obama. [Link](#)

Obama to appoint Ramaswamy as NIFA director (Western Farm Press 3/13). President Obama announced recently his intent to appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Improve when and where to apply fertilizer (Agprofessional.com 3/13). Scientists are developing a new tool that will improve water quality by helping farmers decide when and where to apply their fertilizer to fields. The Fertilizer Forecaster is a Web-based decision-support tool that can be used before fertilizer is applied to assess the risk of nutrients running off into surface water. The initiative is a collaboration of Penn State University and USDA's Agricultural Research Service, which have received a USDA NIFA grant of \$484,000 to develop the tool. [Link](#)

Organic carrot breeding program to develop colorful varieties (Growing Produce, 3/14). Planning is underway for the new Carrot Improvement for Organic Agriculture project, sponsored by USDA's Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). This is a partnership between OSA, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Purdue University, University of California, Washington State University, and USDA's Agricultural Research Service. [Link](#)

Mortenson earns national recognition as exceptional teacher (AgriNews 3/15). The excitement in Natasha Mortenson's voice is palpable. She gets that way when talking about her favorite subject — agriculture. The 11-year Morris Area High School ag instructor and FFA advisor shares her enthusiasm through several ag literacy programs she's developed. Mortenson is one of five teachers nationwide named exceptional teachers by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. [Link](#)

Scientists Identify Pigs with Reduced Susceptibility to PRRS (National Hog Farmer 3/15). Scientists at USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have discovered a genetic marker for reduced susceptibility in pigs to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), the most economically significant disease in pigs. The research is funded by the Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) program, supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); the PRRS Host Genetics Consortium (PHGC), a nationwide effort originally funded by the National Pork Board; and the U.S. Swine Genome coordinator for the National Animal Genome Research Program. [Link](#)

Small Steps to Health, Wealth coming soon to Morgan County (Fort Morgan Times 3/15). Small Steps to Health and Wealth is a new program offered by Colorado State University Extension which addresses how financial problems can affect overall health as well as how poor health can affect overall finances. This program is unique because it blends health management and financial management. It is a pilot program funded through USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Programs are hands-on, packed full of useful health and finance tips, and offered in a supportive learning environment. Make 2012 the year you get healthier and live wealthier. [Link](#)

Carrot breeding project seeks new varieties suited to organics (The Grower 3/15). The Port Townsend, Wash.-based Organic Seed Alliance, along with a group of university and U.S.

Department of Agriculture researchers, has begun a four-year project to develop carrot varieties suited to organic production. Participants include the University of Wisconsin, Madison; Purdue University; University of California, Riverside; Washington State University; and the USDA Agricultural Research Service, according to a news release. The work is sponsored by the USDA's Organic Research and Extension Institute. The goal is to develop novel colored carrots with improved disease and nematode resistance, improved weed competitiveness, and improved nutritional value and flavor. [Link](#)

Obama to name Ramaswamy as NIFA director (Feedstuffs 3/16). President Barack Obama plans to appoint Sonny Ramaswamy as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). NIFA links USDA with the land-grant university community to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental, social, and human sciences. [Link](#)